

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20

IO-14 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 ARA-14 AID-05

CEA-01 HA-05 EUR-12 ACDA-12 /147 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8501

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR EGEN EAID

SUBJ: PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S PRESS CONFERENCE, MAY 26

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT KAUNDA BRIEFED PRESS, GOVERNMENT AND PARTY OFFICIALS AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS MAY 26 ON HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, THE RECENT EVENTS IN ZAIRE AND THE ZAMBIAN ECONOMY. HE WAS EXTREMELY POSITIVE IN HIS REMARKS ON THE U.S. VISIT. QUESTIONS FOLLOWING HIS STATEMENT DEALT PRIMARILY WITH ZAIRE AND ON THE ISSUE OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA. HE WAS NOTICEABLY RELAXED AND UNEMOTIONAL DURING THE ENTIRE BRIEFING. END SUMMARY.

2. A RELAXED, GOOD HUMORED PRESIDENT KAUNDA SPOKE IN EXTREMELY FAVORABLE TERMS ABOUT HIS VISIT TO THE U.S., PRAISING PRESIDENT CARTER FOR HIS HONESTY AND GENUINE CONCERN FOR THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE SAID HIS VISIT WAS EXTERMELY PRODUCTIVE AND POINTED TO THE PROMISE OF ASSISTANCE FROM THE USG (DOLS 100 MILLION IN LOANS OVER THREE YEARS) AND PRIVATE FINANCIAL COMMUNITY (DOLS 200 MILLION IN LOANS FROM CITIBANK NEW YORK). HE CALLED HIS VISIT STRENUOUS BUT FRUITFUL.

3. HE PRAISED THE USG'S NEW UNDERSTANDING OF AN INVOLVEMENT
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IN THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND SAID HE FOUND THESE CHANGES BOTH IN THE ADMINISTRATION AND "ON THE HILL." HIS DELEGATION IN SEEKING U.S. SUPPORT BOTH POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY FELT THEY WERE "PUSHING ON AN OPEN DOOR."

4. KAUNDA SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME ON ZAIRE, INSISTING THAT THE KATANGES DID NOT MOUNT THEIR INVASION OF SHABA FROM ZAMBIA.

HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT KATANGESE WERE INFILTRATING ACROSS THE BORDER FROM ZAMBIA FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. WHILE NOT ADMITTING THAT THIS WAS TRUE, HIS REMARKS SEEMED DESIGNED TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT IF REBELS HAD CROSSED FROM ZAMBIA INTO ZAIRE, THIS WAS DONE WITHOUT ZAMBIA'S KNOWLEDGE.

5. THE PRESIDENT SPOKE ON ZAMBIA'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, AGAIN ALLUDING TO THE ASSISTANCE FROM U.S. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SOURCES. HE WAS ESPECIALLY COMPLIMENTARY TO BOTH THE BANK OF AMERICA AND CITIBANK. HE WENT THROUGH THE BY NOW FAMILIAR EXHORTATIVE EXERCISE OF CALLING ON ZAMBIANS TO WORK HARDER TO SOLVE THEIR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

6. QUESTIONS FROM REPORTERS CONCENTRATED ON ZAMBIA BEING USED AS AN ENTRY OR EXIT POINT FOR THE KATANGESE REBELS AND ON REFUGEES. KAUNDA SAID HE WAS AWARE ONLY THAT 300 UNARMED REFUGEES HAD CROSSED INTO ZAMBIA FROM ZAIRE. A BBC REPORTER STATED HE HAD BEEN TO NORTHERN ZAMBIA AND PERSONALLY INTERVIEWED ARMED KATANGESE REBELS ON ZAMBIAN SOIL AND ASKED FOR KAUNDA'S COMMENT. THE PRESIDENT RESTATED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF ONLY THE 300 REFUGEES AND THAT THE REPORTER "OBVIOUSLY KNOWS MORE THAN I DO." HE DID SAY HE WOULD ASK THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS ABOUT THE COMMENTS MADE BY THE REPORTER.

7. ASKED ABOUT THE ISSUE OF CUBANS AND SOVIETS IN ZAMBIA,
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THE PRESIDENT REITERATED HIS POSITION THAT ZAMBIA COULD ASK FOR ASSISTANCE FROM ANY QUARTER. HE SAID THAT CUBANS WERE TRAINING ZAPU FREEDOM FIGHTERS IN ANGOLA BUT THAT THE ZNDF WAS GIVING ZAPU TRAINING IN ZAMBIA. HE SAID THE WEST SHOULD NOT BE PREOCCUPIED WITH SOVIET OR CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA BUT RATHER WITH THE FACTORS LEADING TO THAT INVOLVEMENT. HE ASKED WHAT THE DIFFERENCE WAS BETWEEN INTERVENTION BY THE FRNCH AND BELGIANS OR THE SOVIETS "AND THEIR CUBANS."

8. KAUNDA MADE SEVERAL LIGHTEARTED REMARKS DURING THE SESSION AND AT NO POINT DID HE BECOME EMOTIONAL. EVEN HIS EXHORTATIONS ON THE ECONOMY WERE LOW KEY AND NONTHREATENING. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT HE RETURNED IN HIGH SPIRITS FROM HIS U.S. TRIP.
LOW

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